

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to respond to each of the claim objections set forth at paragraph 1 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. It is noted that as to the suggestion that all independent claims refer to a "floor structure", the same has not been done since it clearly should not be necessary for clearly defining the claimed invention, although it was done to clarify the specific objected to claim 2.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 as being anticipated by Lotto, '932 is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The following is a comparison of the present invention with Lotto, et al., '932, including an explanation of significant differences in the structures involved. The present invention is directed toward a vault or arch bridge, wherein the track carriers are suspended from a vault. This contrasts with Lotto et al., '932 which is a truss bridge where the lower birdle 2 is not suspended at the upper birdle 1 in the sense of an arch bridge as is the case with the present invention. Accordingly, Lotto et al., '932 neither experiences the special problems solved by the present invention nor includes any suggestions for solving such problems.

In the case of a vault or arch-bridge as described in the present application, extension of the length of the bridge results in a corresponding increase in the height of the bridge, which necessarily means that the standard size modules for the track carriers and for the vaults end up with a different

overall length. That is, with an equal number of vault modules and track carrier modules for a longer bridge, the overall horizontal length of the arch or vault as compared to the horizontally extending track carriers is reduced as one increases the lower length of the bridge path. It is this problem with this type of bridge which the present invention is directed toward improving by providing the especially designed end pieces having variable connection points so as to accommodate different length bridges and still use standardized end pieces. Since the claims all positively include and recite the specially designed end pieces for facilitating different length bridges, all claims clearly define patentable novelty as compared to the Lotto et al, '932 patent. Accordingly, this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The indication of allowability of the subject matter of previously presented claims 2, 4, 6, 8-14, 18-20 and 22-24 is noted. The formal objections have been addressed by these amendments. As to claims 2, 4, 6 and 8-14, they depend from claim 1 and, as discussed above, recite clear patentable features as compared to the prior art. As to claims 18-20 and 22-24, they have been amended so as to overcome the formal objections and should also be considered in clearly allowable form. The newly added claims 27-29 are also submitted as patentable over the prior art, the same being presented to not be limited to the number of track carriers or vaults, while reciting the basic combination including the specially designed end pieces to facilitate the use of standard parts and variable length bridges.

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Amendment in  
Reply to Office Action dated  
March 8, 2005

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims is in order and respectfully requested.

It would be appreciated if the undersigned were telephoned if there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101235.53105US).

Respectfully submitted,

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